

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

B 1 The present invention relates to a method for producing substantially globular lyogels, wherein the constituents which make up the gel are mixed, where upon lyosol is introduced into an agitated medium which does not dissolve in said lyosol in a noticeable manner in order to form said the gel. The present invention also relates to a method for producing substantially globular aerogels, wherein the lyogels produced according to said method are converted into an aerogel. --

In the Claims

Please delete claims 1-12 without prejudice to applicants' right to claim the subject matter thereof, upon entry of the following new claims.

Please enter the following new claims:

B2 -- / Claim 13 (New) A method of producing substantially globular lyogels in which the gel forming components are mixed to produce a lyosol, after which the lyosol, in order to form a lyogel, is introduced into a moving medium which flows substantially against the direction of the force of gravity and which does not perceptibly dissolve in the lyosol.

Claim 14 (New) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the medium is air.

Claim 15 (New) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the air contains at least one further gaseous medium.

B3 Claim 16 (New) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol is introduced dropwise into the moving air.

Claim 17 (New) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol is sprayed into the moving air.

Claim 18 (New) A method according to at least one of claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol particles are screened according to size by the air stream which is directed in opposition to the force of gravity.

Claim 19 (New) A method according to at least one of claim 14, characterized in that the velocity of the air stream diminishes in the direction of flow.

Claim 20 (New) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the lyosol particles are trapped in a layer of water.

Claim 21 (New) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the lyosol is formed from silicic acid and mineral acid.

Claim 22 (New) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the lyosol is formed from a sodium water-glass solution and hydrochloric acid.

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Claim 23 (New) Use of substantially globular lyogels, produced according to claim 13, for the production of aerogels.

Claim 24 (New) A method of producing substantially globular aerogels in which a substantially globular lyogel, produced according to claim 13, is converted to an aerogel. --